

Appln. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated January 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 9, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action mailed July 9, 2003, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive to that office action. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain in this application. Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pferd et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,112,147) in view of Verhagen (U.S. Patent No. 4,140,885).

Applicants respectfully submit that Pferd and Verhagen fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness of claim 1 because these references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a telephone wire distribution center that includes a plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions organized along an axis that is substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input-wire pairs is labeled.

As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 2143.03, “to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.”

Claim 1 is directed to a telephone wire distribution center comprising: a front substantially planar surface; a plurality of pairs of punch down terminal strips attached to the front surface, wherein each punch down terminal strip includes a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination areas, wherein each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip; a plurality of input-wire-pair-labeling regions on the front surface for labeling a corresponding plurality of input-wire pairs, wherein the input-wire-pair-labeling regions' respective locations are substantially in line with a corresponding plurality of respective longitudinal axes of the plurality of pairs of the punch down terminal strips thereby indicating that respective pairs of the punch down terminal strips correspond to respective input-wire pairs; and a plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions on the front surface, the plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions' being located substantially laterally with respect to the longitudinal axes of the plurality of pairs of

Appln. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated January 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 9, 2003

punch down terminal strips thereby indicating that the plurality of additional termination areas correspond to a plurality of output-wire-pair destinations, such that the plurality of input-wire pairs is organized and labeled along a first axis and the plurality of output-wire-pair destinations are labeled and organized along a second axis that is substantially transverse to the first axis.

Verhagen does not teach or suggest output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions that are laid out along an axis that is substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input-wire pairs is labeled. Verhagen discloses a modular interchange termination system for key telephones. The system includes programmable termination fields for flexibility in providing and altering key telephone functions. (Abstract). The office action cites Figure 7 of Verhagen in support of the proposition that "Verhagen teaches providing a row and column labeling (fig. 7) of the wire pairs on the front surface of a connector block." (Office action, page 2). Verhagen does not, however, teach or suggest a plurality of output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions organized along an axis that is substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input-wire pairs is labeled. Instead, Verhagen discloses color-coding of telephone-line functionality. (Verhagen, col. 6, lines 18-20). Significantly, Figure 7 of Verhagen does not teach or suggest labeling of output-wire-pair destinations. Instead, the color-coding abbreviations that appear in Figure 7 were added to that drawing for illustrative purposes only to convey color-coding information via a black-and-white line drawing that complies with applicable U.S. Patent Office regulations for formal drawings. (Verhagen, col. 5, line 51, though col. 6, line 34). Figure 7 of Verhagen does not, therefore, teach or suggest output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions. Consequently, Verhagen also does not teach or suggest laying out output-wire-pair-destination-labeling regions along an axis that is substantially transverse to an axis along which a plurality of input-wire pairs is labeled.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Pferd and Verhagen, either alone or in combination, do not establish prima facie obviousness of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that, Pferd and Verhagen, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations of claims 2-6 and 8-16 for at least reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1. Applicants, therefore,

Appln. No.: 09/450,384
Amendment dated January 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed July 9, 2003

respectfully submit that claims 2-6 and 8-16 also contain patentable subject matter and are also in condition for allowance.

Communication

If the Applicants may expedite consideration of the instant application in any way, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

CONCLUSION

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: January 9, 2004

By:



William J. Klein
Registration No. 43,719

10 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 3000
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel: (312) 463-5000
Fax: (312) 463-5001

WJK/MBO